

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

POST OFFICE BOX 327

HURLOCK, MARYLAND 21643

410-943-4181

FAX 410-943-8556

E-MAIL: townofhurlock@townofhurlock.org

JOYCE A. SPRATT

MAYOR

JOHN H. AVERY

CLERK / TREASURER

ROBERT MERRIKEN

ATTORNEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS

CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.

PARKER J. DURHAM

BONNIE FRANZ

EARL H. MURPHY

JERRY L. RHUE, SR.

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING SEPTEMBER 22, 2014 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the meeting of September 22, 2014, to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Hurlock Town Office located at 311 Charles Street. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Councilman Reverend Cephas said the opening prayer. The roll call was then taken. Those in attendance were: Councilmembers Parker Durham, Jerry Rhue, Bonnie Franz, Charles Cephas, Earl Murphy, Attorney Robert Merriken, Mayor Joyce Spratt, and Administrator John Avery.

Councilman Rhue made a Motion to approve the Agenda. Councilman Murphy seconded the Motion. With no discussion and no one opposed, the Motion to approve the agenda was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

The Minutes of the Open Session Meeting held on August 25, 2014 were approved. Council woman Franz made a Motion to approve the minutes and Councilman Murphy seconded the Motion. With no discussion and no one opposed, the Motion to approve the minutes was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Spratt introduced candidates for the upcoming election that will speak during the Public Comment Session. The candidates were: Addie Eckhart, Keisha Haythe, Lenny Pfeiffer, and County Councilman Rick Price.

County Councilman Rick Price Report – Councilman Rick Price reported on the last County Council Meeting. The county council addressed efforts of the Clean Chesapeake Coalition. In doing so, they voted to request meetings with Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the DNR to challenge State and Federal environmental actions affecting local seafood harvesting and farming in the county. The primary focus is with regards to the current Oyster Restoration Project in the Little Choptank River from the stand point that it violates the National Environmental policy act which calls for meeting with and coordinating with local governments that would be affected by the program. Other issues include addressing the State and Federal Agencies regarding the mandates to reduce daily maximum loads of nutrient runoff in the Chesapeake Bay and the DNR's refusal to allow expansion of power dredging. The council approved a capital improvement plan for the Bd of Ed contingent upon the county's FY'16 county budget. The plan would include plans for a new North Dorchester High School. Also approved was a road paving proposal for the next year. The

county will add an extra cardboard container for recycling at the Hurlock and Beulah locations and empty 1 per week. The county public works was asked to coordinate with the Town of Hurlock to remove the unsightly containers prior to the Fall Festival. The council accepted a housing study grant through Salisbury University for a countywide housing study. There were other issues discussed. The next county council meeting will be held on Monday November 3rd, not Tuesday, due to the election.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Spratt announced the Town has a new Fall Fest sign on Main Street. This sign doesn't have a date on it so it can be used every year. There are a lot of new things included in this year's festival, including a Little Mr. and Miss to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Friday night at the Hurlock American Legion. Immediately following this will be the Hurlock's Got Talent Show.

There will be a clothing give-a-way at the Community Center on October 18th from 9a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The bus turn-a-round in Prospect Heights has been finished.

Mayor Spratt, Administrator Avery, Councilmen Cephas and Murphy met with the county council regarding acquiring the ball fields. The county is in agreement with the Town in doing this. The Town would continue doing the work on the fields as they are doing now. There was discussion on what else to do with the fields for the children; one thing being a splash pad.

Administrator Avery read a letter from the Wilmington National Railroad Historical Society. In the letter they thanked the Town for their donation of \$1,000.00. They also volunteered to purchase up to 32 tickets for mentally challenged children and their caregivers. If anyone knows of anyone in this situation please notify the Town Office.

Mayor Spratt spoke about the Treasurer's Report. Every council person had a copy and the report showed the Town is in good shape.

Department Reports –

Department of Public Works - Alan Plutschak reported that road repairs have been made, grass has been cut, the Prospect Park had fence repairs and the Fall Fest plans are going well.

Hurlock Police Department – Chief Les Hutton reported that the police dept had 16 reportable offenses. Of those, 12 cases were closed. The police department applied for a grant from GOCCP to purchase 10 laptop computers. The department received funds for 2 computers. The groundbreaking for the new police station is scheduled for October 4th in conjunction with the Fall Festival. Councilman Cephas said Captain Henry represented the Town very well during a recent police meeting.

Hurlock Fire Department – Rachael, representing the fire department gave the number of responses made. The new tower truck will be ordered by the end of this year. CPR classes will be given at the fire house during the Fall Festival. On October 19th a Celebrating Home Bingo will be held at the fire house.

Administrator Avery issued a report on the annual testing for lead & copper. All 10 tests were negative.

Mayor Spratt read a report from Pat Finley regarding the cat situation. 25 cats were spayed or neutered which brings the total up to 50 as of September 20th. Waiting for a printout from Sara Ewing showing expenses which would state that the Hurlock funds were just about depleted and getting ready to use grant monies. Ms. Finley got traps from Dorchester and Talbot Counties. There are cats on Maryland Avenue of which 3 were captured and fixed. The next spay/neuter will be done on October 18th. Anyone who needs to contact Ms. Finley can reach her at 443-521-4269.

New Business – None

Old Business – Mayor Spratt announced a vote was needed to decide which bank the Town would use to finance the construction of the new police station. Councilman Murphy made a Motion to use Hebron Savings Bank. Council woman Franz seconded the Motion. There was a considerable amount of discussion regarding the reason for choosing Hebron Savings Bank over The National Bank of Cambridge. A big reason for choosing HSB is the loan would be essentially considered on full faith & credit, NBC is not. Councilman Durham asked if the conditions were met that NBC requested and the answer was yes. Councilman Cephas felt the council should follow Mr. Avery's and the Mayor's recommendation. Attorney Merriken stated the NBC would require title work, but HSB does not. He explained that Full Faith & Credit means you do not have to sign title work. Mayor Spratt and Administrator Avery looked at all the options and had the idea to remove \$250,000.00 from Provident State Bank and deposit the money into the NBC. Councilman Durham felt the Town should stay with NBC. There was more discussion. Mayor Spratt called for a vote. Councilmembers Cephas, Murphy, Franz, and Rhue voted Aye to go with Hebron Savings Bank for the funding to construct the new police department. Councilman Durham abstained. With a vote of 4-0 and 1 abstention, the Motion to obtain funding for the construction of the new police department from Hebron Savings Bank was passed and carried the majority of the council also agreed to move the \$250,000.00 from PSB to the NBC. Councilman Murphy explained why he made the Motion.

Council members Comments – Councilman Murphy encouraged everyone to attend the Fall Festival, it is a great event.

Councilwoman Franz felt the Clean Up for the Town needs everyone's support. The Pizza Palace was painted on Saturday.

Mayor Spratt reported that the old train station is coming down.

Councilman Rhue thanked the Mayor for the Town Employees Appreciation Crab Feast. It was a great event.

Councilman Durham felt that with the department reports, they have a good grasp of all that is going on within the Town. He encouraged everyone to invite their friends and families to the Fall Festival.

Public Comment – Addie Eckhart expressed how glad she was to be in attendance and how everyone she has talked to is so positive about being in Hurlock. Ms. Eckhart is running for the office of Senator.

Keisha Haythe said this was her first council meeting with the new council. She is running for the office of Delegate for the 37th District. Part of her platform is Economic Development and Environment. She also supports the farmers and watermen.

Lenny Pfeiffer is running for the Dorchester County Council for District 4. He was a professional firefighter and wants to carry Dorchester County.

County Councilman Rick Price stated he is a life-long resident of Dorchester County and is proud to serve the county council. His main focus currently is on the construction of the new North Dorchester County High School. He is also concerned about the roads.

Councilman Murphy announced that 3 members of his church are struggling with breast cancer. They held a spaghetti dinner and in 2 hours over \$2500.00 was raised. He also encouraged everyone to attend the Fall Festival.

Blanche Powell announced the Grace Episcopal Church will be holding a silent auction on Saturday October 4th in conjunction with the Fall Festival. They have over 100 items. Other things will be going on at the church as well.

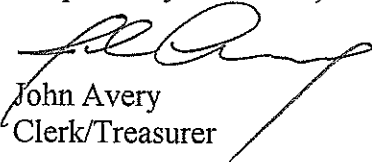
Frank Bittner thanked Les Hutton for the police report. He questioned whether the Town should accept the ball fields.

With no further business or discussion, a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting and move to an Executive Session. The purpose of the closed session is to obtain legal advice pertaining to the misuse of town property.

Councilman Murphy made a Motion to move to go into Executive Session. Councilman Rhue seconded the Motion. With all in favor and no one opposed, the Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

An announcement was made that the council would not be returning to open session following the closed session.

Respectively submitted,


John Avery
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: Mayor Spratt:



Council members:





